

App. No. 09/506347
Amd. Dated November 6, 2003
Office Action Dated August 12, 2003

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks. Claims 9-13 and 31 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added. Claims 1, 3-8, 28 and 30 are pending. Withdrawn claim 29 depends from allowable claim 1 and should be reinstated.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 9-13 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. This rejection is rendered moot, as claims 9-13 and 31 have been canceled. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 9-13 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Goto et al. (US 5,091,793). This rejection is rendered moot, as claims 9-13 and 31 have been canceled. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested. Any questions or concerns regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Douglas P. Mueller, Reg. No. 30,300, at (612)371.5237.

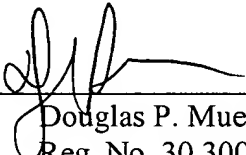


Dated: November 6, 2003

DPM:mmm

Respectfully submitted,

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By 
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